

TANNATE OF CANNABIN AGAIN.—This drug, which was highly recommended by Frommüller as a mild and harmless hypnotic, has been tried in thirty cases by Lublinsky, who reports it weak and uncertain in its action. To this unfavorable experience Frommüller replies by asserting that it was not given in proper doses, or to the right class of patients, or else he did not get a good preparation. F. uses Merck's cannabin tannicum, beginning with a dose of gr. v or gr. vii.—*Memorabilien*, v Hft., 1883.

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CHLORIDE OF METHYLENE, AND A NEW ANÆSTHETIC MIXTURE.—Ten cases of death from the use of chloride (usually called bichloride) of methylene have now been reported. Dr. F. Junker, in commenting upon this anæsthetic, states that it acts very much like a mixture of four parts chloroform and one part methylic alcohol.—*Brit. Med. Journal*, July 21, 1883.

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PHOSPHATE OF CODEIA.—Herr E. Merck, of Darmstadt, at the instance of Professor Hegar, of Freiburg, has succeeded in producing a phosphate of codeia which has the great merit of being soluble in four parts of water, so that it can be used subcutaneously. It crystallizes in small four-sided columns, is white, rather bitter to the taste, and resembles the sulphates and hydrochloratis of the same base. In its action it resembles morphia, except that it is milder, and the symptoms of intoxication are less pronounced. The dose required is about double that of the salts of morphia. No marked local disturbances followed the subcutaneous employment of the drug.—*Med. Press and Circular*, Aug. 27, 1883.

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BROMIDE OF NICKEL.—Dr. DaCosta advocates the use of a new salt (bromide of nickel) in epilepsy and other diseases where the bromides are indicated. He claims that it is equally efficacious in much smaller doses. He gives doses of five grains, in form of pill or in syrup, three times a day, gradually increasing the dose to ten grains, three times a day.—*Medical News*, Sept. 20, 1883.

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CANNABIS INDICA AS A SEDATIVE.—Dr. William Strange recommends cannabis Indica as a nervous sedative for the relief of anxiety and restlessness; but he thinks that it is seldom given in sufficiently large doses. He recommends a grain of the extract, or from twenty to thirty minims of its tincture. It may be advantageously combined with bromide of potassium.—*Brit. Med. Journal*, July 7, 1883.

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JAMAICA DOGWOOD.—Dr. Otto Seifert recommends the liquid extract of the rind of the root in cases of "spinal irritation," and in the treatment of chronic severe cough, where opium can not be

prescribed. Von Firth has found the extract of value in patients suffering from delirium tremens, even where other narcotics, such as chloral, bromide of potassium, and opium, have failed. Seifert gave some to healthy individuals, and found that it was followed by marked soporific effects and some dilatation of pupil; but no change was observed in the pulse or temperature, nor was there any salivation or increase of perspiration. Severe coughing at night in cases of phthisis was greatly relieved by the administration of .25 of a gramme of the solid extract.—*Berlin. klin. Wochenschr.*, No. 29, 1883.

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PIPERIDIN AS AN ANÆSTHETIC AND SEDATIVE.—W. Fliess has shown that in cold-blooded animals (frogs) piperidin, in doses of one to two milligrammes, causes complete sensory paralysis with abolition of reflexes, the motor nerves not being at all affected. The peripheral end-organs are first affected, then their nerves, then their nerve-centres. This anæsthetic effect was much less marked in warm-blooded animals (rabbits), though some diminution of sensibility was noticed. The author reports the history of an obstinate case of vaginismus that was cured by the hypodermic injection of 0.02 grammes of piperidin.—*Archiv f. Physiologie*, 1883, p. 190.

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PARALDEHYDE.—Dr. Jos. Peretti reports his experience with this drug. He gave it to four healthy persons, and to thirty-two patients suffering from various forms of insanity. Peretti concludes that paraldehyde is not a specific against any of the morbid psychoses, nor a good quieting agent in conditions of chronic maniacal excitement. It is, however, an excellent hypnotic, and a useful remedy in the mild depressive conditions. Its advantages are its safety, its non-cumulative action (one patient took 179 grammes in forty-two days), and absence of preliminary exciting stage and of subsequent bad effects.—*Berlin. klin. Wochenschr.*, No. 40, 1883.

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METALLO-THERAPY.—Dr. Grace Peckham discusses the various theories put forth to explain the facts of metallo-therapy. Evidence is also brought to show that metallo-therapy forms an actual tangible addition to therapeutical science.

Dr. Peckham thinks that the theory of expectant attention must be set aside as inadequate to explain the phenomena of metallo-therapy. The electrical theory, the thermo-electrical theory, the "theory of molecular motion and change of rhythm," are all only more or less plausible hypotheses.—*Archives of Medicine*, Oct., 1883.

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A NEW OPERATION FOR THE CURE OF MASTURBATION.—Dr. Timothy Hays reports three cases in which he has relieved masturbation by resecting the spermatic ducts.